Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for storing and retrieving digital data within a hardware platform, the method comprising:

receiving data bits across a bus ~~of a fixed width~~, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

altering the bit pattern of the data bits ~~according to a prescribed scheme~~;

storing the altered data bits;

restoring the altered data bits to the bit pattern; and

outputting the restored data bits, wherein

the altering comprises one of selectively inverting bits in selected bit positions of the data bits and selectively scrambling bits in the selected bit positions of the data bits to prevent unauthorized use of the data bits.

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the altering step and the restoring step are performed by a hard disk drive interface.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme in the step of~~ altering is unique to the hardware platform.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the prescribed scheme in~~ the ~~step of~~ altering ~~is relatively~~ unique to a plurality of hardware platforms ~~the hardware platform in that the prescribed scheme may be utilized by another hardware platform~~.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme in the step of~~ altering is based upon a serial number of the hardware platform.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

generating a random number upon power-up of the hardware platform,

wherein the ~~prescribed scheme in the step of~~ altering is based upon the random number.

10-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for storing and retrieving digital video data, comprising:

a system bus configured to transfer data bits ~~of a fixed width~~, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

an interface coupled to <u>the</u> system bus and configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits ~~according to a prescribed scheme~~; and

a hard disk drive coupled to the interface and configured to store the altered data bits<u>,</u> <u>wherein</u>

<u>the interface is configured to alter the bit pattern by one of selectively inverting bits in</u> <u>selected bit positions of the data bits and selectively scrambling bits in the selected bit positions</u> <u>of the data bits to prevent unauthorized use of the data bits.</u>

13-16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the ~~prescribed~~ ~~scheme~~ <u>interface</u> is <u>further configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits in a manner that is</u> unique to the apparatus.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the ~~prescribed~~ ~~scheme is relatively~~ <u>interface is further configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits in a</u> manner that is unique to ~~the apparatus~~ <u>a plurality of apparatuses</u> ~~in that the prescribed scheme~~ ~~may be utilized by another apparatus~~.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme is~~ <u>interface is further configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits</u> based upon a serial number of the apparatus.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

a processor coupled to the system bus and configured to generate a random number during power-up of the apparatus,

wherein the ~~prescribed scheme is~~ <u>interface is further configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits</u> based upon the random number.

21-32. (Canceled).

33. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for storing and retrieving digital video data within a hardware platform, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving data bits across a bus ~~of a fixed width~~, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

altering the bit pattern of the data bits ~~according to a prescribed scheme~~ <u>by one of selectively inverting bits in selected bit positions of the data bits and selectively scrambling bits in the selected bit positions of the data bits to prevent unauthorized use of the data bits</u>;

storing the altered data bits;

restoring the altered data bits to the bit pattern; and

outputting the restored data bits.

34-36 (Canceled).

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the altering step and the restoring step are performed by a hard disk drive interface.

38. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme in the step of~~ altering is unique to the hardware platform.

39. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme in the step of~~ altering is ~~relatively~~ unique to <u>a plurality of hardware platforms</u> ~~the hardware platform in that the prescribed scheme may be utilized by another hardware platform~~.

40. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme in the step of~~ altering is based upon a serial number of the hardware platform.

41. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the one or more processors further perform ~~the step of~~:

generating a random number upon power-up of the hardware platform,

wherein the ~~prescribed scheme in the step of~~ altering is based upon the random number.

42. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the altered <u>data</u> bits ~~in the step of altering~~ are stored ~~in~~ <u>on</u> a hard disk drive~~, the fixed width of the data bits being 16 bits~~.

43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently amended) An apparatus for storing and retrieving digital video data within a hardware platform, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving data bits across ~~of~~ a bus ~~of a fixed width~~, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits ~~according to a prescribed scheme~~ by <u>one of selectively inverting bits in selected bit positions of the data bits and selectively scrambling bits in the selected bit positions of the data bits to prevent unauthorized use of the data bits</u>;

means for storing the altered data bits;

means for restoring the altered data bits to the bit pattern; and

means for outputting the restored data bits.

45-47 (Canceled).

48. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme is unique~~ means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits is configured to alter the data bits in a manner that is unique to the hardware platform.

49. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme is relatively unique~~ means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits is configured to alter the data bits in a manner that is unique to a plurality of hardware platforms ~~to the hardware platform in that the prescribed scheme may be utilized by another hardware platform~~.

50. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the ~~prescribed scheme is~~ means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits is configured to alter the data bits based upon a serial number of the hardware platform.

51. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 44, further comprising:

means for generating a random number upon power-up of the hardware platform,

wherein the ~~prescribed scheme is~~ means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits is configured to alter the data bits based upon the random number.

52-53. (Canceled).

54. (New) A method for storing and retrieving digital data within a hardware platform, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of data bits, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

altering the bit pattern by inverting bits in a first selection of bit positions of the data bits;

storing the altered bit pattern on a medium;

retrieving the stored altered bit pattern from the medium;

restoring the altered bit pattern by inverting the bits of the first selection of bit positions of the retrieved bit pattern; and

outputting the restored bit pattern.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the first selection of bit positions are unique to the hardware platform.

56. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the first selection of bit positions are based on a serial number of the hardware platform.

57. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the first selection of bit positions are based on a random number.

58. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the altering further comprises scrambling bits of a second selection of bit positions of the bit pattern, and

the restoring further comprises unscrambling the bits of the second selection of bit positions of the retrieved altered bit pattern.

59. (New) A method for storing and retrieving digital data within a hardware platform, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of data bits, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

altering the bit pattern by scrambling bits of selected bit positions of the data bits;

storing the altered bit pattern on a medium;

retrieving the stored altered bit pattern from the medium;

restoring the altered bit pattern by unscrambling the bits of the selected bit positions of the retrieved bit pattern; and

outputting the restored bit pattern.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the selected bit positions are unique to the hardware platform.

61. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the selected bit positions are based on a serial number of the hardware platform.

62. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the selected bit positions are based on a random number.